

BIG SANDY NEWS.

Aut inveniam viam, aut faciam

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SUCCESSFUL

Test Made of the Unique Splash Dam

Just Completed Near the Breaks of Sandy. Largest Splash Dam Ever Built.

The formal test of the big splash dam on the Russell fork of the Big Sandy has been made, and it is pronounced a grand success. The dam is just below the mouth of Pound river, about 12 miles south of Elkhorn City, the present terminus of the Big Sandy division of the C. & O. railway, and about two miles above the canyon of the Cumberland known as the "Breaks of Sandy." The dam was designed by John McDyer, of Ashland, in latter years, but who was born and "raised" in this county, and it was constructed under his immediate supervision. The work will be an enduring monument to Mr. McDyer's skill and ability as an engineer.

From a recent letter to the Ashland Independent the NEWS reprints some very interesting details regarding the dam, with an account of the formal test just made. The dam is the largest "splash" dam of which there is any history, having two hundred feet of waterway. It is the only dam of its kind in the world, being built wholly of concrete and steel, except the gates, which are of steel and wood. There was used as reinforcing one hundred and thirty-five thousand pounds of steel. Members ranging from one and one-half to five inches were set from eighteen to forty-eight inches in solid rock to secure the foundation. The concrete rests from two to five and one-half feet in the bed rock. There is a stationary dam, five feet high, above the main bed of the river, and on this rest the gates and in this dam is fixed five piers forty feet apart and twenty feet above the fixed dam. There is a "boom" on the piers similar to that on bridge piers, and on the down-river end is a stairway, some four feet wide, built in the masonry. There are five gates, each forty feet wide. These gates, which are twenty feet high above the top sill, or twenty-five feet above the bed of the river, are so constructed that they can be extended to twenty-nine feet.

This dam will be manipulated by a steam trolley or "traveler." Area covered by water at full head, 82 acres. Storage capacity of water 3,549,600,000. Storage capacity for logs, 67,000 "mill" logs. Strain on dam at full head, 522,000 pounds. Amount of cement used, 1,690,000. Total weight of concrete, 16,230,000 pounds.

It has required nine months to complete the work of construction. Sam Collier & Co., of Paintsville, were the contractors. The cement for this work was placed by Ashland people, the Ohio Valley Mill & Supply Company being the successful agents.

Testing the Dam.

The day was ideal—weather made to order—the crowd large and spectacular. The officials of the great lumber company having this dam built, led by Leon Isaacson, were on hand early. All morning a force of men were kept busy perfecting arrangements for the test. Wires were stretched, batteries tested, lines and cables manipulated, and every precaution taken to protect the crowd, that had gathered from all angles. "All ready," shouted Orrville Cure, the man in charge. The bridge was cleared, and photographers in position. At 11:55 the electric shot was fired that released the five massive gates. All opened simultaneously, turning loose a wall of water sixteen feet and two inches high—this pool of innocent looking water, as clear as crystal, gentle as a moonbeam, silent as the midnight graveyard, on the bosom of which rested thousands of fine poplar logs. In the twinkling of an eye this pure, harmless pool was turned into a maddened cataract. The logs borne in its bosom came thundering through the gates, bounding, leaping, turning and thrusting at each

other with the animus of a raging lion. Then each would enter into a chase down the rocky shores in a flight only equalled by a herd of wild horses fleeing from a prairie fire. If you have ever had the pleasure of standing on the shore and viewing the rapids of the Niagara, you can in your mind see the trial test of the greatest splash dam on the globe. However, the world may some day see on canvas what we have here witnessed in reality. Moving picture artists have been on the scene for half a month, and will show logging, from the felling of the tree to the landing of those massive fleets by steamboat on the Ohio river. Every operation of the dam was taken, and in all, so far over three thousand pictures have been taken.

Postponement of the Test.

I mention this fact as a bit of news that will interest many of your readers, and directly concerns some of our best citizens and mill men. The time fixed for the test was November 27th. On the Monday preceding this date word came that a gorge of several thousand logs about one and one-half miles below, was on fire. All the available men that could be gathered were dispatched to the scene of the fire. The flames had gained such headway, and the heat was so intense that men with buckets could do absolutely nothing. The only hope of saving this great mass of logs was to open the gates of the dam, which at that time had nine feet of water. Communication was secured with Mr. Isaacson, general manager of the Yellow Poplar Lumber Co., who was then in Elkhorn, and he ordered the gates opened. It was so done, the fire drowned, and thousands of dollars for the

(Continued on page five.)

DOINGS IN THE OIL FIELD.

Well No. 3 Going Down Rapidly. Rigs Being Erected for Two New Wells

Oil well No. 4, on Three Mile has been located about a quarter of a mile from No. 1 and the machinery is being placed on the ground. Work will begin as soon as the plant can be made ready.

Well No. 3 on the O'Brien farm is being drilled day and night. The drilling began Saturday night. A depth of about 300 feet has been reached.

A rig is being built for a well on the West Virginia side of the river, on Powder Mill creek. This is about four or five miles east of the Three Mile wells.

A Lively Game.

The Louisa High School football team arrived in the city Saturday morning on the Big Sandy train, and after having dinner at the Shilley hotel, repaired to the Clyffside gridiron where they met the Catlettsburg team in a lively game. Those from Louisa were: Roy Hensley, Thayer Edgell, Fred Remmelle, Herschel Vanhook, Joe Stevens, Carl Picklesimer, Warren Millard, George Waldeck, Frank McGowan, Cecil Peters, Aden See and Fred See.—Catlettsburg item.

The score marked was 20 to 5 in favor of Catlettsburg, but the local team had to be strengthened by the addition of several heavyweights in order to win.

Will Close for Two Weeks.

When the college and public school close today (Friday) it will be for a vacation of two weeks. During the recess Prof. Byington will be active in the interest of the K. N. C., visiting many places in Kentucky and West Virginia. Nothing will be lost by this extended vacation, either by school or scholar; on the contrary much will be gained.

He Tells of Deer.

Looking hale and hearty as a result of a month's vacation Dr. L. D. Jones, the dentist, has returned from a visit to home folks in Virginia. He ate of the abundance of his native State, venison included, and drank of the pure waters which sparkle from the mountain sides, and seems greatly "hoped up" thereby.

BAD CUTTING AFFRAY.

Sam Bellomy and Daughter Assaulted by Letter's Husband.

An affray which occurred on Bear creek, this county, on Monday night last resulted seriously for at least two persons. The chief actor and the only guilty party is a man named Thomas Workman. The wounded are his wife and his father-in-law, Sam Bellomy. Both these people are said to be in a critical condition as a result of the murderous assault of the husband and son-in-law.

Some very wild stories concerning the affair have been sent to the dailies. It was bad enough in itself without the "yellow" tinge being added by sensational correspondents.

Both Workman and Bellomy had been to Catlettsburg on Monday, and on the return trip that afternoon Workman was said to have been considerably intoxicated. Bellomy lives near Adelina, not far from Buchanan, and there he and Workman went after leaving the train.

A quarrel arose some time in the course of the evening, during which Workman attacked Bellomy with a knife, inflicting serious wounds in the neck, breast and side. At this juncture, Mrs. Workman interfered to protect her father, when her husband turned upon her like a fury and stabbed her in the side and arm, and cut one finger nearly off.

The news of the affray speedily spread, causing great excitement. Dr. Manley Warren, of Buchanan, was sent for and he dressed the wounds of all the wounded.

The latest news from the locality is that Bellomy is in a very critical condition. So far as can be learned Workman has not been arrested. He is the same Workman, so it is said, who was accused of selling the liquor to the men who did the shooting at a Sunday School picnic on Bear Creek two or three years ago, and which resulted in the death of a young lady named Ross. For this selling he was convicted of bootlegging and served ninety days in jail at Frankfort.

Celebrated Case.

Circuit Judge Allie W. Young, at Mt. Sterling, has rendered a decision which he has had under advisement for some time, and grants judgment for the Equitable Life Insurance Company against the estate of C. W. Howes and Gano Johnson for \$18,000. It is alleged that fraud was enacted in securing life policies on the life of one Morris Griffin, and that the defendants collected the money.

This case has been in the courts several years. It began in this county, and the public was made familiar with its salient features by its history as given in this paper a long while ago. The end is not yet, for it will be stubbornly fought as long as possible.

The Rev. W. L. Reid.

This gentleman, the esteemed pastor of the M. E. Church South, returned last week from Chicago, after an absence of some ten days. He will occupy his pulpit for both services next Sunday. He and his congregation worshipped at the M. E. Church last Sunday evening, the sermon being preached by the Rev. C. H. Williamson.

While he was in Chicago Mr. Reid attended the mid-winter meeting of Christian Workers and the National Convention of the Anti-Saloon League. He was chairman of the delegation from the Western Virginia Conference to the League meeting.

Has Nearly Recovered.

Oscar Blankenship, who was operated upon by Dr. T. D. Burgess some time ago for appendicitis, has nearly recovered. He is now at home and will soon be entirely well.

River Froze Over.

During the short cold snap of last week a thin sheet of ice was formed in the river just above town. It was thick enough to bear the weight of a small—very small—dog.

REV. DR. C. H. WILLIAMSON

Preached Twice in Louisa Sunday.-- Moving to Memphis.

The recent visit of the Rev. Dr. C. H. Williamson and family to this place was quite a noteworthy event in the church and society circles of Louisa. Dr. Williamson has received and accepted a call to become the pastor of one of the leading Presbyterian churches in Memphis, Tenn., and the family came to the old home to spend the holiday season with the family of Judge R. T. Burns. It is, in some degree, a vacation, and hosts and guests have enjoyed it to the utmost. All are domiciled at the beautiful Burns home, and there the venerable grand parents, the children and the host of grandchildren are eating and making merry.

According to the announcement in the NEWS of last week Dr. Williamson preached in the Southern Methodist Church on last Sunday morning. The church was filled to the packing point. The congregation of the M. E. Church attended in large numbers, and the pastor, the Rev. Dr. Hanford, took part in the service preceding the sermon.

Dr. Williamson read for a lesson the 17th chapter of Acts, and its reading, with fine voice and clear, clean cut enunciation, was a treat in itself. He chose for his text a part of the 28th verse of the chapter: "For in him we live and move and have our being." It might be said that the preacher's subject was the imminence, or nearness, of God.

The subject was presented to a deeply interested audience in a most original, forcible and attractive manner. Dr. Williamson left the old lines of thought—many of which were barren of any thought whatever—and brought to the minds of his hearers the rich sentiment of a profound thinker, and the rich experience of a preacher who had found sermons in brooks and in pictures and the love and imminence of God even in the lightning and the tempest. The thoughtful man or woman who had been per force of circumstances compelled to listen to "sermons" made up of garbled and misapplied scriptural quotations, interspersed with pious ejaculations, must have noted what the reverend gentleman incidentally said about the necessity of a higher educational requirement for the ministry. Paul was an educated, learned Hebrew. He knew the Greek language, and the keen eye of the physically deformed Jew had seen that inscription on the altar: "To the unknown God." This was Paul's opportunity, and he made the most of it. Had it not been for his knowledge of this tongue, at that time the language of art and literature, the opportunity could not have come.

Dr. Williamson left on Thursday for his home in the Southland and will preach the first sermon of his new pastorate next Sunday.

Rev. Isaac Fannin Dead.

Some months ago the NEWS told of the very serious illness of the Rev. Isaac N. Fannin, of Estep, this county, saying at that time that his recovery was impossible. Today it chronicles the news of his departure to the dwelling place "not made with hands." He died on Sunday last, bringing to a peaceful close the 78 years of a well-spent life. More than fifty of these useful years were passed in the Christian ministry. He was a preacher of the Southern Methodist Church. His church passed through a stormy period during the four years of civil strife, and at its close Mr. Fannin was a leading spirit in the reorganization of the church, rendering it valuable assistance.

He was an upright man, honored and respected. In life he was unspotted; in death, triumphant. He was buried on Tuesday last, not far from what had been his home for many years.

A Narrow Escape.

J. Crit See was painfully injured last Friday on Three Mile, at the site of oil well No. 3. His face was mashed in the region of the cheek bones, but his skull is not injured,

and he is steadily recovering.

He was employed by Mr. Liedecker, the contractor who is drilling well No. 3, to haul a boiler from Walbridge station to the location of the well. While the boiler was being unloaded from the wagon Mr. See went under it and put his head between the boiler and the coupling pole of the wagon. The boiler moved enough to catch him just as he attempted to remove his head from the dangerous position. A number of men were present and they soon succeeded in extricating him. Dr. M. G. Watson happened to be one of the bystanders and gave Mr. See immediate attention. An examination soon showed that the man was not fatally hurt.

Mr. See says he went into that place to adjust a chain. Dr. Watson called to him three times to get out, but he says he heard only one, and just as he started to heed the warning he was caught.

Mr. See was taken to the home of Wm. See and remained until the next day, when he was removed to his home. His early recovery is hoped for.

Crushed to Death.

In trying to alight from a rapidly moving freight train near Williamson, Sherman Hannah, a well known young man whose home is in the lower end of the county, was drawn under the wheels. His body was terribly mangled.

It is stated that Wayne McCoy and Alex Stoke were in the car with Hannah. They say that he opened the car door and when he jumped his coat caught against the fastening, drawing him close to the car. He was drawn under the wheels and met instant death.

KILLED BY FRANK WELSH.

Henry Mosby Dies at Iaeger, W. Va., at Hands of a Louisa Man.

Details of the killing of Henry Mosby, of Iaeger, W. Va., by Frank Welsh, of this place, on Wednesday of last week are meager and the accounts given in the newspapers are much distorted and exaggerated. The killing was done at Iaeger, and Welsh is in jail at Welsh awaiting trial.

One account, telegraphed from Bluefield, says:

"Welsh has been running a gambling room at Iaeger for several years, and has the name of being more or less quarrelsome. Welsh and a painter employed at Iaeger had a quarrel Tuesday night in Mosby's saloon and Welsh was about to hit the painter over the head with a beer bottle, when Mosby caught his arm and probably prevented a murder. Welsh was incensed because Mosby interfered and threatened to get even with him. Mosby's brother advised him to stay away from Welsh as Welsh was a sneak and would ambush and kill him. But Mosby, who was known to be a fearless man, stated that he was not afraid of Welsh doing him any harm. Mosby showed his gameness by pulling his gun after he had been pierced by three bullet holes through the breast, and shooting three times at the fleeing murderer.

Reliable accounts brought to Louisa by disinterested people are at variance with this story. A gentleman direct from Bluefield says that Mosby had been following Welsh all day, trying to pick a quarrel; that he shot at him three times before Welsh fired to save his own life.

Welsh is the son of Pete Welsh, who lives at the "old Hicks" two and a half miles below Louisa.

Sick at Riverview.

W. B. Smith, of Atlanta, Ga., an employee of the Southern Bell Telephone Co., is sick at Riverview Hospital. He was at the Brunswick last week with a cold which developed into pneumonia, and was removed to the hospital for treatment. He is reported doing well.

Will Meet No More.

The last meeting, called on regular, of the present board of commoners was held on Tuesday night. Claims amounting to about four hundred dollars were allowed and no further business was transacted.

JUSTICE IS JUDGE.

Queer Mix-up in the County Judgeship.

Commission Received From Frankfort by W. M. Justice and He Has Been Sworn In.

W. M. Justice has given bond and taken the oath of office as County Judge of Lawrence county.

This announcement will be read with considerable surprise by those who have not heard of this very unusual circumstance.

The face of the returns of the recent election showed that David Boggs had been elected County Judge by a majority of 33. His opponent, W. M. Justice, filed a contest suit demanding a recount of all the ballots cast at the November election in the judge's race, claiming that there were sufficient errors in certain precincts to change the result.

A few days ago the mails brought to Mr. Justice a commission from Frankfort, signed by the Secretary of State and Governor, designating him as the County Judge. He was very much surprised and set about quietly to learn the wherefore and to find "where he was at." The Secretary of State reported that "in examining the returns of the election held in November the figures looked like 1968 votes had been received by you and that 1030 votes had been received by Mr. William Boggs." These are his exact words.

Now the question is, who sent any report to Frankfort of the vote in county races. It is not the duty of any officer or county board to make such a report. The county election commissioners are required to certify only that the successful candidate was elected. No figures are to be given and the names of defeated candidates are not intended to be mentioned in the report sent to Frankfort.

W. A. Copley is secretary of the board of election commissioners. It was presumed that he had sent the report which the Secretary of State speaks of. Mr. Copley denies having given the figures in this race.

After securing legal advice Mr. Justice decided to qualify, in view of the pending contest. Inasmuch as his opponent will resist a recount he feels justified in the action taken. He says if a recount of the ballots had been agreed to he would not have qualified.

Judge Justice executed bond before the Circuit Court Clerk and was sworn in at a special session of the County Court, opened on Tuesday to take the bond of Al Hays, Jailor.

The outcome of the case will be watched with interest, as there has been no other like it. Attorneys are at work on the case.

Died In Hospital.

Readers of the NEWS will remember the account published some weeks ago of Albro Vance, of Knott county, who was brought to the hospital suffering from a gunshot wound in the leg. The injury was an old one and the leg was then gangrenous and the man in very bad shape. Amputation of the thigh gave a slim chance for recovery. Vance took it but he was too far gone. Death occurred the latter part of last week. He was buried in the Fulkerson graveyard.

Setting Their Homes in Order.

The various county officers whose terms expire with 1909 are preparing for removal. Jailor Burton has cleaned up the public square, and Uncle Al Hays will find things in good shape when he gets the keys of the county bastille.

Will Undergo an Operation.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Dempsey, of Nolan, W. Va., are here. Mrs. Dempsey is a patient of Dr. T. D. Burgess, who will operate upon her today (Friday) for tumor.